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# National Bonsai Collection

at the National Arboretum



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**National Bonsai Collection  
Bicentennial Gift  
of the  
Nippon Bonsai Association**

Bonsai number	Common name Botanical name	Japanese name	Age of plant Years in training
1	Japanese Black Pine <i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	Kuro-matsu	200 80
2	Japanese White Pine <i>Pinus parviflora</i>	Goyo-matsu	350 350
3	Japanese White Pine <i>Pinus parviflora</i>	Goyo-matsu	120 120
4	Japanese White Pine <i>Pinus parviflora</i>	Goyo-matsu	120 50
5	Yezo Spruce <i>Picea glehnii</i>	Ezo-matsu	170 50
6	Yezo Spruce <i>Picea glehnii</i>	Ezo-matsu	120 40
7	Japanese Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>	Hinoki	130 100
8	Japanese Yew <i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Ichii	150 50
9	Needle Juniper <i>Juniperus rigida</i>	Toshyo	250 50
10	Needle Juniper <i>Juniperus rigida</i>	Toshyo	100 30
11	Japanese Cedar <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Sugi	70 70
12	Thorny Elaeagnus <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>	Gumi	150 150
13	Japanese White Pine <i>Pinus parviflora</i>	Goyo-matsu	80 40
	Hornbeam <i>Carpinus laxiflora</i>	Soro	
	Japanese Beech <i>Fagus crenata</i>	Buna	
14	Sargent Juniper <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> var. <i>sargentii</i>	Shinpaku	250 70
15	Japanese Wisteria <i>Wisteria floribunda</i>	Fuji	100 50
16	Japanese Zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Keyaki	80 80
17	Japanese Elm <i>Ulmus davidiana</i> var. <i>japonica</i>	Nire-keyaki (Aki-nire)	70 70
18	Summer Camellia <i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Natsutsubaki	120 50
19	Hall Crab Apple <i>Malus halliana</i>	Shidare-kaido	70 70

The National Bonsai Collection is located in the Japanese Garden and Viewing Pavilion on Meadow Road just east of the Administration Building.



20	Toringo Crab Apple <i>Malus sieboldii</i>	Miyama-kaido	120 70
21	Hornbeam <i>Carpinus tschonoskii</i>	Soro	120 40
22	Hornbeam <i>Carpinus laxiflora</i>	Akame-Soro	50 30
23	Japanese Beech <i>Fagus crenata</i>	Buna	50 30
24	Japanese Beech <i>Fagus crenata</i>	Buna	70 40
25	Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Icho	120 50
26	Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Icho	80 80
27	Azalea <i>Rhododendron kiusianum</i>	Miyamakiri-shima	150 50
28	Kurume Azalea <i>Rhododendron kaempferi</i>	Kurume-tsutsuji	160 60

29	Holly <i>Ilex serrata</i>	Umemodoki	65 65
30	Japanese Cornelian Cherry <i>Cornus officinalis</i>	Sanshyu	100 30
31	Chinese Quince <i>Chaenomeles sinensis</i>	Karin	100 100
32	Higo Camellia <i>Camellia japonica</i>	Higo-tsubaki	100 100
33	Japanese Quince <i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	Boke	80 80
34	Japanese Quince <i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	Boke	100 100
35	Japanese Witch Hazel <i>Hamamelis japonica</i>	Mansaku	80 50
36	Trident Maple <i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Kaede	120 120
37	Trident Maple <i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Kaede	60 60
38	Chinese Loropetalum <i>Loropetalum chinense</i>	Tokiwaman-saku	60 60
39	Nippon Hawthorn <i>Crataegus cuneata</i>	Sanzashi	80 80
40	Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i>	Momiji	70 70
41	Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i>	Momiji	30 30
42	Satsuki Azalea <i>Rhododendron indicum</i>	Satsuki	150 150
43	Satsuki Azalea <i>Rhododendron indicum</i>	Satsuki (Izayoi)	70 70
44	Satsuki Azalea <i>Rhododendron indicum</i>	Satsuki (Hakatashiro)	60
45	Satsuki Azalea <i>Rhododendron indicum</i>	Satsuki (Shio)	150 150
46	Satsuki Azalea <i>Rhododendron indicum</i>	Satsuki (Kaho)	50
47	Japanese Beech <i>Fagus crenata</i>	Buna	50 20

48	Camellia <i>Camellia japonica</i>	Tsubaki	60
			60
49	Japanese Black Pine <i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	Kuro-matsu	70
			70
50	Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i>	Momiji	30
			30
51	Japanese Hemlock <i>Tsuga diversifolia</i>	Kometsuga	100
			50
52	Trident Maple <i>Acer buergerianum</i>	Kaede	80
			80
53	Japanese Red Pine <i>Pinus densiflora</i>	Aka-matsu	180
			180



## Viewing Stones

A	Chrysanthemum Stone	Kikkaseki
B	Saji River, Puddle Stone	Sajigawa-Mizutamariishi
C	Ibi River, Mountain Shaped Stone	Ibigawa-Yamagataishi
D	Noble Boat Mountain Stream Stone	Kifune-keiryu-seki
E	Quiet Mountain Stone	Seigakuseki
F	Mt. Hakkai, Mountain Shaped Stone	Hakkaisan-Yamagataishi

# National Bonsai Collection Bicentennial Gift of the Nippon Bonsai Association

Japan is a land of rugged mountains, green hillsides, sparkling coastlines, and island-studded inland seas. To bring such natural beauty nearer to their homes, the Japanese people for many centuries have perfected techniques for duplicating nature in many art forms.



In their gardens, the Japanese arrange plants, bonsai, and stones to give the impression of a natural landscape. However, the landscape is purposely left incomplete. Even the most perceptive observer must use a certain amount of mental agility to personally perfect the finished work.

The Japanese garden complex at the U.S. National Arboretum was developed to provide an appropriate environmental setting for the magnificent National Bonsai Collection, a gift of the Japanese people to the American people in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the United States. The 53 bonsai, assembled by the Nippon Bonsai Association, range from 30 to 350 years of age and number 34 different species. Many come from the private collections of well-known citizens of Japan. One, a 180-year-old Japanese Red Pine, comes from the Imperial Household, and represents the first time a bonsai from the Imperial Collection has left the country.

The complex will also house six unique viewing stones that are part of the Bicentennial gift from Japan. The same love for natural form expressed in bonsai is also found in *suiseki*, or stone viewing. The stones on display are outstanding examples of this art. Stones such as these provide the collector with a natural landscape for contemplating the harmony and beauty of all of nature.

The principal architect of the garden complex, Masao Kinoshita of Sasaki Associates, Watertown, Massachusetts, has provided through his design an American interpretation of Japanese concepts of gardening and architecture.

Future additions to this garden structure will encourage a feeling of gradual transition from a western to an oriental world. Japanese lanterns flanking a

By Erik A. Neumann, *SEA curator of education* and Robert Drechsler, *SEA curator of the National Bonsai Collection*

ceremonial gate will lead to a dark mystic forest of Cryptomeria. A walkway will “float” atop a pool graced by brilliantly colored Japanese Koi. At the end of the walkway is a reception court with a bubbling fountain to symbolize the cleansing of the body and soul.

Other additions to the complex will include a viewing pavilion for exhibiting select bonsai, for performing the tea ceremony, and for displaying Ikebana flower arrangements and calligraphy. An addition to the administration building is also planned to accommodate bonsai workroom, classroom, and office.

Plants are the living part of the garden and provide seasonal changes of beauty. Japanese Black Pines merge into the backbone of the garden as they ascend, symbolically, toward infinity. Trunks and branches of Japanese Red Maple, flowering cherry, and crapemyrtle form the edge of the garden and arch over the walkway to make a delicate canopy. As in Japanese flower arrangements, where the branch arches over the fragile flower to symbolize protection, the overhead branches in the garden protect the fragile human. Every effort is made to blend color, habit, texture, and seasonal interest of all plant material in the garden.

Most of the plants in the garden are represented in miniature in the National Bonsai Collection. Many species were originally brought from Japan into the United States by plant explorers from the Department of Agriculture.

Stones create a foundation of strength and stability and add weight to the fragile appearance of the garden. The consistency of the stone is hard and symbolizes an eternal, never-changing base of truth, faith, and life. Plants, water, and earth are aesthetically blended together by the skillful placement of stones.

Quiet reflective water in a pond introduces a sense of repose, remote from the outer world. The slightest breeze brings the water alive with a variety of subtle patterns. Water denotes coolness, refreshment, and purification.

A narrow stone path requires visitors to walk single file through parts of the garden to create intimate contact with nature. Each curve presents a new view and excites interest in what may lie ahead. Three parts of the walkway widen to present several bonsai. Stone lanterns call attention to obstacles and turning points along the walkway as they lead one to a peaceful harbor of scenic beauty. A Japanese decorative stone basin at the entrance provides rain water for the bonsai plants.



At the end of the garden path, just inside the gate of the bonsai shelter, rests the great Japanese Red Pine from the Imperial Household. The bonsai shelter provides permanent housing for the National Bonsai Collection.

The formal presentation of the bonsai to the United States was made in Tokyo, Japan, on March 20, 1975, by Nobusuke Kishi, ex-Prime Minister of Japan and President of the Nippon Bonsai Association. The Honorable James D. Hodgson, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, received the gift. After a quarantine period at the Plant Introduction Station at Glenn Dale, Maryland, the collection was transferred to its permanent home at the National Arboretum.